

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL LUANDA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 243467

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 243467 ACTION LISBON DTD 13 OCT

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S E C R E T STATE 243467

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TAGS: PFOR, EAID, PO, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH MELO ANTUNES

1. SECRETARY MET FOR AN HOUR ON OCTOBER 10 WITH PORTUGUESE FOREIGN MINISTER MELO ANTUNES. CONVERSATION WAS MOSTLY DIRECTED TO ECONOMIC MATTERS AND ANGOLA, WITH PORTUGUESE INTERNAL SITUATION A SECONDARY TOPIC.

2. ECONOMIC: MELO ANTUNES SAID PORTUGAL'S MAIN NEED NOW (COMMUNIST THREAT HAVING RECEDED) WAS FOR QUICK ECONOMIC RECOVERY AS A FIRST STEP TOWARDS RESTORING
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POLITICAL STABILITY. HE ASKED THAT PRESS STATEMENT

TO BE ISSUED BY US AFTER THE MEETING BE ADJUSTED TO GIVE IMPRESSION, CONSONANT WITH REMARKS MADE BY PRESIDENT IN THE MORNING, THAT FURTHER AID WOULD FOLLOW. SECRETARY AGREED. MELO ANTUNES SUGGESTED CREATING BILATERAL JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION TO STUDY SPECIFIC AREAS FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION, INCLUDING TRADE. SECRETARY CONCURRED, DIRECTED THAT INSTRUCTIONS BE SENT IMMEDIATELY TO CARLUCCI (SEPTEL) REGARDING OUR WILLINGNESS BE HELPFUL. MELO ANTUNES ALSO SAID NEW GOVERNMENT ACCORDED IMPORTANCE TO PRIVATE CAPITAL, DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN, IN PORTUGUESE ECONOMY, AND NEW FOREIGN INVESTMENT CODE WAS EXPECTED

IN NEXT FEW WEEKS. HE ASKED FOR US ASSISTANCE WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LENDING INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING BANKS AND WORLD BANK, WHERE NEGOTIATIONS OVER \$85 MILLION FROM OIL FACILITY PROCEEDING SLOWLY. SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT OBJECTIVE CIRCUMSTANCES USUALLY DETERMINED ATTITUDES OF THESE INSTITUTIONS BUT SAID WE WOULD BE AS HELPFUL AS POSSIBLE. JOINT COMMISSION COULD IDENTIFY PROJECTS WHERE COOPERATION WOULD BE POSSIBLE.

3. ANGOLA: SECRETARY SAID WE VERY CONCERNED AT REPORTS THAT MPLA WAS RECEIVING CONSIDERABLE AMOUNTS OF SOVIE EQUIPMENT. IF SUCH AN OPERATION SO FAR FROM USSR WERE SUCCESSFUL, ENTIRE AFRICAN SITUATION COULD BE AFFECTED. HE THEREFORE HOPED PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT LEAVE WEAPONS BEHIND FOR MPLA. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IN ITS FINAL WEEKS IN ANGOLA PORTUGAL COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO MAKE POSITIVE EFFORTS AGAINST MPLA, BUT WE HAD MANY REPORTS THAT PORTUGUESE MILITARY WERE TURNING ARMS OVER TO IT. HE THEREFORE HOPED THAT IN OUR COMMON INTEREST GOP WOULD TRY TO HAVE THIS STOPPED. MELO ANTUNES ACKNOWLEDGED THE TRUTH OF REPORTS CITED BUT SAID OTHER PORTUGUESE WERE ASSISTING FNLA OR UNITA. GOVERNMENT'S OFFICIAL POLICY WAS AND WOULD REMAIN ONE OF COMPLETE NEUTRALITY VIS A VIS ALL THREE LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, ONE PURPOSE OF WHICH WAS TO TRY TO RETAIN STRONG TIES WITH AN INDEPENDENT ANGOLA, HOPING BY THIS TO HELP COUNTRY REMAIN FREE FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION, INCLUDING THAT OF USSR. SEC SAID WE WOULD WELCOME CLOSEST OF TIES BETWEEN ANGOLA AND
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A DEMOCRATIC PORTUGAL.

4. PORTUGUESE POLITICAL SITUATION: MELO ANTUNES SAID THE COMMUNIST DANGER OF THREE MONTHS AGO HAD RECEDED AND BEEN REPLACED BY A THREAT FROM EXTREME LEFT ELEMENTS IN ARMED FORCES AND LABOR MOVEMENT. GOVERNMENT HAD TO FACE UP TO PROBLEM OF DISCIPLINE IN THE ARMED FORCES AND TO A SERIOUS CONFRONTATION WITH EXTREME LEFTISTS, BUT,

SINCE THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE AND ARMED
FORCES WOULD SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT, HE WAS CONFIDENT OF
VICTORY. KISSINGER UNQTE KISSINGER

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